

**Ad hoc Committee on Responsible Contracting
Friday, November 15, 2013
Council Chambers, Beck Municipal Building**

Minutes

Members Present: Toni Moran (Chair), Elizabeth Wassmundt

Other Council Members Present: Steve Kegler, Paul Shapiro

Staff Present: Maria Capriola, Assistant Town Manager, Matthew Hart, Town Manager

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of September 18, 2013 were moved by Moran. The minutes were approved as presented with Moran voting in favor and Wassmundt abstaining.

2. OVERVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

Ms. Moran provided a review of the Committee's work to date: review of sample ordinances from Connecticut municipalities; spoke to a comparable community (Killingly) about their RCO experience; received presentations from various DOL staff members on topics such as apprenticeship programs and worker misclassification; spoke with the Associated Builders and Contractors organization and local contractors to hear their opinion on RCOs; spoke with members and representatives of trades unions to hear their opinion on RCOs and apprenticeship programs; spoke with a representative of Ellis Tech to learn information about the Technical High School system; spoke with Town staff about relevant practices, policies, and ordinances.

3. SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS

A number of local contractors presented:

- Greg Zlotnick, Zlotnick Construction
- Phil Desiato, Desiato Sand and Gravel
- Deb and Paul Sarazin, Sarazin General Contractors
- Rocco Sabatino, Pelletier Builders
- Scott Donovan, G. Donovan Associates
- Sharon Beebe, Milton Beebe and Sons

The guest speakers represented 6 area contractors with over 200 employees, 67 of whom reside in Mansfield. Most of the other employees reside in towns contiguous to Mansfield. The guest speakers spoke on a number of topics such as: safety practices exercised by their companies; training provided to their employees; their concerns that RCOs decrease competition and often exclude non-union shops from being able to participate in public projects; Massachusetts municipal RCOs. The guest speakers offered a number of suggestions on the following topics: pre-qualification process; contractor responsibility certifications to ensure quality contractors; safety training; local preference.

4. OTHER DISCUSSION

Ms. Moran outlined the next steps in the process. The hiring of graduates from the Tech High School system was discussed. Local preference and goals for hiring local employees was discussed.

Mr. Shapiro made a request to have the court decisions from the Massachusetts RCO cases provided to the Committee.

Ms. Wassmundt made a request to have the Public Works safety policies provided.

Ms. Moran made a request to have the University's new Code of Conduct for Vendors provided.

5. 2014 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

Through consensus the Committee agreed to meet on the second Fridays of every month at 9am during 2014.

6. FUTURE AGENDAS

Ms. Moran expressed an interest in having a UCONN guest speaker discuss its new Code of Conduct for Vendors.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Pat Suprenant, Mansfield. Ms. Suprenant spoke to her opposition to UCONN's involvement with presenting or assisting on Town issues. She also inquired as to tax consequences if a RCO is implemented. Ms. Moran requested that the record note that Ms. Suprenant is the Editor of the Mansfield Independent News. Ms. Suprenant noted that she made her remarks on her own behalf.

Dean Polloti, Willington, New England Regional Council of Carpenters. Mr. Pollotti spoke in support of establishing goals for local workers. Mr. Polloti cited the work of municipalities currently reviewing RCOs and/or that have recently adopted a RCO. Mr. Pollotti spoke to training provided to carpenters by the Union.

Brian Anderson, Mansfield. Mr. Anderson spoke in support of a RCO. Mr. Anderson stated his position that RCOs support the middle class. He further spoke to financial difficulties facing construction families in Connecticut and the tax implications of those families needing assistance when construction workers are out of work. Mr. Anderson also spoke to Connecticut's experience with adopting municipal RCOs.

Bill Jordan, Chaplin. Mr. Jordan spoke to his experience as a former trainer and offered to submit the curriculum for the laborer and equipment operator apprenticeship programs.

The meeting adjourned at 10:58am.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria E. Capriola, Assistant Town Manager
Town of Mansfield